



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/485,097 03/08/00 MATHIESEN B 12875.10USWO

023552
IM52/0516
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MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

GALLAGHER, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1733

10

DATE MAILED:

05/16/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/x85097 Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 - ☒ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 5
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☒ Other FOREIGN REFERENCE COPIES (3)

Office Action Summary

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1. Applicant's Preliminary Amendment, filed 03 February 2000, has been received and made of record.

2. The entire specification should be carefully re-read and presented in more fluent English/better form wherever necessary; if extensive revision is required, a substitute specification should be submitted in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(q). Further along this line (a) N.B. paragraphs 3-4, below; and (b) the following are additionally (although NOT necessarily exclusively) advanced: (a) Page 4 line 15 - change "a" to "an"; (b) page 7 line 25 and line 8 of the Abstract - "module" should apparently read "modulus"; (c) page 14 line 1 - change "PATENT CLAIMS" to "I Claim" or equivalent, as per MPEP § 608.01(m); and (d) Abstract line 7 - change "stabile" to "stable".

3. This application is informal in the arrangement of the specification.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout and content for patent applications. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of Specification

The following order or arrangement is preferred in framing the specification and, except for the title of the invention, each of the lettered items should be preceded by the headings indicated below.

- (a) Title of the Invention.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications (if any).

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- (c) Statement as to rights to inventions made under Federally-sponsored research and development (if any).
- (d) Background of the Invention.
 - 1. Field of the Invention
 - 2. Description of the Prior Art.
- (e) Summary of the Invention.
- (f) Brief Description of the Drawing.
- (g) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s).
- (h) Claim(s).
- (i) Abstract of the Disclosure.

4. **Content of Specification**

- (a) Title of the Invention: The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification. It should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words. See 37 CFR 1.72(a).
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.
- (c) Statement as to rights to inventions made under Federally sponsored research and development (if any): See MPEP § 310.
- (d) Background of the Invention: The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:
 - (1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field".
 - (2) Description of the Related Art: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."
- (e) Summary of the Invention: A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the

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advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

- (f) Brief Description of the Drawing(s): A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.
- (g) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s): A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. This item may also be titled "Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention." Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.
- (h) Claim(s): A claim may be typed with the various elements subdivided in paragraph form. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75.
- (i) Abstract of the Disclosure: A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 250 words or less on a separate page following the claims.
- (k) Drawings: See 37 CFR 1.81, 1.83-1.85, and MPEP § 608.02.
- (l) Sequence Listing: See 37 CFR 1.821-1.825.

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5. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically (a) claim 1 line 2 - "reinforced" should read "reinforcing" (consistent with page 1 line 11 and page 4 line 11 of the specification); and (b) claim 11 should be presented in more fluent English/better form.

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 11-13 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the German reference to Smuck et al.

Smuck et al. disclose a laminating apparatus composed of a heated roller pair/couple and a cooled/cooling roller pair/couple, which couples act successively (and in the order stated) on superposed plies of substrate material to be bonded to laminate and treat same. (Figs. 3-4, English Translation

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Abstract). All of the essential limitations of these claims are held to be satisfied by this reference.

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-10 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either of the Japanese Sumitomo or Hiraoka references, each in view of Sandt.

The Sumitomo and Hiraoka references (English Translation Abstract for both) both disclose that it is known to melt-adhere a PTFE film to a (woven) e.g. glass fabric in a heat and pressure lamination process. Each of these references is held/seen to correspond to/be consistent with applicant's admission as to what constitutes prior art/the state of the art - N.B. page 1 lines 11-13 of their specification.

Sandt discloses that in the bonding of PTFE films to ANY heat resistant material substrate in a heat and pressure bonding process, it is PREFERRED to cool the laminate so formed under pressure i.e. by maintaining the laminating pressure

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(column 1 lines 15-17, column 2 lines 14-72, column 3 lines 1-4 and N.B. lines 3-4, N.B. column 5 lines 35-40), such that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art to employ this PREFERABLE cooling under pressure step/technique in/in conjunction with the processes of either of the two Japanese references.


10. Applicant should note that the Examiner is having all three of the above applied foreign references translated.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. J. Gallagher whose telephone number is (703) 308-1971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from approximately 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate N/A.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Ball, can be reached on (703) 308-2058. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3599.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661/0662.

JJG
JJGallagher:cdc
April 24, 2001


JOHN J. GALLAGHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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